

Amendments To The Claims:

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent, each interior circumferential set of strut members and each end circumferential set of strut members having a first end and a second end;

each interior circumferential set of strut members including a plurality of strut members connected by curved sections, the curved sections located at the first and second ends, the curved sections including connected curved sections and unconnected curved sections, each two adjacent strut members connected by a single curved section

the strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section,

each connected curved section being joined by means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members, ~~and~~ all connecting links that connect adjacent circumferential sets of strut members ~~are~~ connected at a connected curved section,

~~each interior set of the~~ strut members also including at least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section.

39. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is straight.

40. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 38 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is an undulating, flexible, longitudinal connecting link.

41. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 40 wherein the place where each flexible longitudinal connecting link is joined to the interior set of strut members is near the connecting line where a connected curved section is joined to a diagonal section.

42. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein there are three longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

43. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein there are five longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

44. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 38 wherein the total longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each end circumferential set of strut members is shorter than the longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each interior circumferential set of strut members.

45. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is stainless steel.

46. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is tantalum.

47-56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38, wherein each interior circumferential set of strut members has fewer connected curved sections than unconnected curved sections.

58. (Currently Amended) A cylindrical expandable stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements, ~~each band-like element having alternating peaks and troughs~~ aligned on a common longitudinal axis to define a generally tubular stent body having a first end and a second end, each band-like element having alternating peaks and troughs, the peaks and troughs taking a generally longitudinal direction along the cylinder,

~~wherein the peaks have an amplitude~~, the peaks of each band-like element comprising peaks of a first amplitude and peaks of a second amplitude, the first amplitude being less than the second amplitude; and

a plurality of interconnecting elements, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first and second ends extending from adjacent band-like elements, the first and second ends displaced circumferentially along the stent.

59. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 58, wherein peaks of the same amplitude are grouped together within a band-like element.

60. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 59, wherein peaks having the first amplitude on

a first band-like element are circumferentially offset from peaks having the first amplitude on a second band-like element.

61. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 58, wherein each of the plurality of band-like elements has a first region having a first wavelength and a second region having a second wavelength, wherein the first wavelength is less than the second wavelength.

62. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 61, wherein the first region comprises peaks having the first amplitude.

63. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 58 wherein each of the plurality of interconnecting elements is substantially straight.

64. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~64~~ 58, wherein the plurality of interconnecting elements is comprised of first interconnecting elements having a first length and second interconnecting elements having a second length, wherein the first length is longer than the second length.

65. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 64, wherein interconnecting elements having a first length extend from the peaks having the first amplitude on a band-like element to a trough on an adjacent band-like element.

66.(New) The stent of claim 58 wherein the peaks of the second amplitude extend further toward the first end of the stent than the peaks of the first amplitude.

67.(New) A stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior sets of strut members, each interior set having a first end and a second end and a plurality of strut members which are connected one to the other, adjacent struts members within an interior set arranged in pairs of strut members wherein some of the strut pairs including a longer strut member and a shorter strut member, adjacent interior sets connected to one another via interconnecting elements,

wherein the interconnecting elements are arranged such that each interconnecting element which connects to an interior set adjacent its first end is connected to an interconnecting element which connects to an interior set adjacent its second end via a pathway of only three connected strut members of the interior set.

68.(New) The stent of claim 67 wherein some of the interconnecting members extend from strut pairs having a longer strut member and a shorter strut member.

69.(New) The stent of claim 68 wherein the first and second ends of each interconnecting member are circumferentially and longitudinally offset from one another.

70.(New) The stent of claim 67 wherein said pathway includes two strut members of one length and one strut member of a different length.